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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/397,704	09/16/1999	GERALD Craig ALTOMARE	6925-196	9091

20583 7590 05/23/2003

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EXAMINER

AKERS, GEOFFREY R

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3624

DATE MAILED: 05/23/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application 09/397704	Applicant(s) A1 to mare	
	Examiner Akers, G	Art Unit 3624	Confirmation No.

- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address -

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 4/25/03
- ☒ This action is FINAL. ☐ This action is non-final.
- ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for the formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- ☒ Claim(s) 1-2, 6-12, 15, 15-26, 38-44 is/are pending in this application.
- Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- ☒ Claim(s) 1-2, 6-12, 15, 15-26, 38-44 is/are rejected.
- ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is ☐ approved or ☐ disapproved by the Examiner. If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are ☐ accepted or ☐ objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d) or (f).
- ☐ All ☐ Some\* ☐ None of the:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \*Certified copies not received:

- ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

#### Attachment(s)

- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

*ka* 5/4/03

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## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Amendment***

1. This action is furnished in response to applicant's Response(Paper #10 filed 4/25/03.
2. No further claims were amended. None were deleted. None were added.
3. Claims 1-2,6-12,15,25-26,38-44 are pending.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-2,6-12,15,25-26,28-36,38-44 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Graff(US Pat. No: 5,802,501) in view of Luskin(US Pat. No: 5,812,987) in view of CIBC World Markets("CIBC") in view of The Canadian Jewish News(2/11/99)("CJN") in view of Satyajit(1/96) and further in view of Lange(US Pat. No: 6,321,212).The rejections cited in Paper #8) are maintained.
- 6.(AMENDED) As per claims 1,11,25,28 Graff teaches a computer-based method for administering financial instruments comprising the steps of establishing a trust(col 2 lines 63-66)(col 36 lines 41-66) with trust units(col 5 line 5) each unit comprising a bond having a maturity date(col 4 lines 1-31) and one or more shares of a security(col 4 line 47-col 5 line 8)(col 30 lines 14-24) where the total number of shares is defined as a share ratio and a unit par price is

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determined based on the values of the underlying bond and the shares of the security at a predetermined time(Abstract)(col 2 line 60-col 3 line 17)(Fig 1)(Fig 6)(col 11 lines 15-18)(col 24 line 60-col 26 line 56).Graff fails to teach periodically computing the price of the trust units based on the share ratio for the period and the current values of the underlying bond and the shares of the security. Luskin teaches this(Abstract)(Fig 6/808/712)(Fig 8/809/807/811/813)(col 2 line 29-63)(col 3 line 39-col 4 line 67) as well as comparing the computed price of the unit to a predetermined price and making a distribution to unit holders based on the comparison(col 5 lines 1-15)(col 6 line 5-16)(col 8 lines 7-19)(col 9 line 37-col 12 line 10).CIBC teaches distributing funds to investors.(Page 1) on an equity-linked note.(CJN(page 1) and Satyajit(page 2) demonstrate that equity-linked notes are in the field of prior art.) Lange teaches that the composition of the trust changes with the distribution(Abstract)(Fig 4/265/267)(Fig 5/460)(col 7 lines 19-55)(col 8 line 49-col 11 line 16)(col 28 line 12-col 36 line 12)(col 63 line 60-col 68 line 6). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Graff in view of Luskin to teach the above. The motivation to combine is to teach a method for one to make appropriate investments to select investments that reflect risk-return trade-offs and to revise these investments through time in response to changing market conditions as enunciated by Luskin(col 2 lines 18-25).It also would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Graff in view of Luskin in view of CIBC and further in view of Lange to teach all the above. The motivation to combine is to teach a method for financial risk

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management utilizing the dynamism of the contingent claims marketplace as enuinciated by Lange(col 5 line 62-col 6 line 59).

7. (AMENDED)As per claims 2,6,8,(14)((22))(((19))),((((35))))((((37))))((((38))))

41,(42),((43)), (((44))) Graff teaches making a final payment on the maturity date of the bond(Fig 5A)(Fig 5B)(Fig 5C)(Fig 5D). Graff however fails to teach a method according to claims 1,(11),((21)),(((16))),((((28))))((((27))))((((28)))) respectively wherein some of the distribution is made of shares of the security as well as the distribution comprising distributing the excess of the current price and the predetermined price and reinvesting distributions made to unit holders into new units(Fig 6/904) Luskin teaches this (col 5 lines 1-15)(col 6 lines 5-16)(Fig 6/808).It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Graff in view of Luskin to teach the above. The motivation to combine is to teach a method for one to make appropriate investments to select investments that reflect risk-return trade-offs and to revise these investments through time in response to changing market conditions as enunciated by Luskin(col 2 lines 18-25).CIBC also teaches distributing funds to investors(Page 1) on an equity-linked note.(CJN(page 1) and Satyajit(page 2) demonstrate that equity-linked notes are in the field of prior art.) Lange teaches that the composition of the trust changes with the distribution(Abstract)(Fig 4/265/267)(Fig 5/460)(col 7 lines 19-55)(col 8 line 49-col 11 line 16)(col 28 line 12-col 36 line 12)(col 63 line 60-col 68 line 6) and that payments are tied to performance of the linked elements. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Graff in view of Luskin to teach the above. The

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motivation to combine is to teach a method for one to make appropriate investments to select investments that reflect risk-return trade-offs and to revise these investments through time in response to changing market conditions as enunciated by Luskin(col 2 lines 18-25).It also would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Graff in view of Luskin in view of CIBC and further in view of Lange to teach all the above. The motivation to combine is to teach a method for financial risk management utilizing the dynamism of the contingent claims marketplace as enuinciated by Lange(col 5 line 62-col 6 line 59).

8.(AMENDED) As per claims 4,12,20,33 Graff fails to teach according to the method of claims 2,11,19,28 respectively comprising the step of converting the excess difference into an excess number of shares based on the current share price. Luskin teaches this(col 2 lines 38-47)(col 3 lines 2-5)(col 3 line 57-60)(col 5 lines 1-31).It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Graff in view of Luskin to teach the above. The motivation to combine is to teach a method for one to make appropriate investments to select investments that reflect risk-return trade-offs and to revise these investments through time in response to changing market conditions as enunciated by Luskin(col 2 lines 18-25).CIBC teaches distributing funds to investors.(Page 1) on an equity-linked note.(CJN(page 1) and Satyajit(page 2) demonstrate that equity-linked notes are in the field of prior art.) Lange teaches that the composition of the trust changes with the distribution(Abstract)(Fig 4/265/267)(Fig 5/460)(col 7 lines 19-55)(col 8 line 49-col 11 line 16)(col 28 line 12-col 36 line 12)(col 63 line 60-col 68 line 6). It also would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to

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combine Graff in view of Luskin in view of CIBC and further in view of Lange to teach all the above. The motivation to combine is to teach a method for financial risk management utilizing the dynamism of the contingent claims marketplace as enunciated by Lange(col 5 line 62-col 6 line 59).

9. As per claims 21,34 Graff fails to teach the method of claims 20,33 respectively adjusting the share ratio of the trust units to reflect the distributed number of shares.Luskin teaches this(Abstract)(Fig 6/808/712)(Fig 8/809/807/811/813)(col 2 line 29-63)(col 3 line 39-col 4 line 67).It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Graff in view of Luskin to teach the above. The motivation to combine is to teach a method for one to make appropriate investments to select investments that reflect risk-return trade-offs and to revise these investments through time in response to changing market conditions as enunciated by Luskin(col 2 lines 18-25).CIBC teaches distributing funds to investors.(Page 1) on an equity-linked note.(CJN(page 1) and Satyajit(page 2) demonstrate that equity-linked notes are in the field of prior art.) Lange teaches that the composition of the trust changes with the distribution(Abstract)(Fig 4/265/267)(Fig 5/460)(col 7 lines 19-55)(col 8 line 49-col 11 line 16)(col 28 line 12-col 36 line 12)(col 63 line 60-col 68 line 6). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Graff in view of Luskin to teach the above. The motivation to combine is to teach a method for one to make appropriate investments to select investments that reflect risk-return trade-offs and to revise these investments through time in response to changing market conditions as enunciated by Luskin(col 2 lines 18-25).It also

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would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Graff in view of Luskin in view of CIBC and further in view of Lange to teach all the above. The motivation to combine is to teach a method for financial risk management utilizing the dynamism of the contingent claims marketplace as enunciated by Lange(col 5 line 62-col 6 line 59).

10.(AMENDED) As per claims 7,15,36 Graff fails to teach the method of claims 4,12,35 respectively comprising the step of reinvesting distributions made to unitholders.Luskin teaches this(col 2 lines 38-47)(col 3 lines 2-5)(col 3 line 57-60)(col 5 lines 1-31).It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Graff in view of Luskin to teach the above. The motivation to combine is to teach a method for one to make appropriate investments to select investments that reflect risk-return trade-offs and to revise these investments through time in response to changing market conditions as enunciated by Luskin(col 2 lines 18-25).CIBC teaches distributing funds to investors.(Page 1) on an equity-linked note.(CJN(page 1) and Satyajit(page 2) demonstrate that equity-linked notes are in the field of prior art.) Lange teaches that the composition of the trust changes with the distribution(Abstract)(Fig 4/265/267)(Fig 5/460)(col 7 lines 19-55)(col 8 line 49-col 11 line 16)(col 28 line 12-col 36 line 12)(col 63 line 60-col 68 line 6).It also would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Graff in view of Luskin in view of CIBC and further in view of Lange to teach all the above. The motivation to combine is to teach a method for financial risk management utilizing the dynamism of the contingent claims marketplace as enunciated by Lange(col 5 line 62-col 6 line 59).



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11. As per claim 9,18 Graff teaches a computer software product for implementing the steps of the method of claim 1 on a computer(Abstract)(col 5 lines 11-23)(col 5 line 65-col 6 line 23).

12.(AMENDED) As per claims 10,39 Graff fails to teach a computer software product of claims 9,28 comprising an Excel spreadsheet program. Luskin teaches this (col 5 line 66-col 6 line 4).It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Graff in view of Luskin to teach the above. The motivation to combine is to teach a method for one to make appropriate investments to select investments that reflect risk-return trade-offs and to revise these investments through time in response to changing market conditions as enunciated by Luskin(col 2 lines 18-25).CIBC teaches distributing funds to investors.(Page 1) on an equity-linked note.(CJN(page 1) and Satyajit(page 2) demonstrate that equity-linked notes are in the field of prior art.) Lange teaches that the composition of the trust changes with the distribution(Abstract)(Fig 4/265/267)(Fig 5/460)(col 7 lines 19-55)(col 8 line 49-col 11 line 16)(col 28 line 12-col 36 line 12)(col 63 line 60-col 68 line 6). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Graff in view of Luskin to teach the above. The motivation to combine is to teach a method for one to make appropriate investments to select investments that reflect risk-return trade-offs and to revise these investments through time in response to changing market conditions as enunciated by Luskin(col 2 lines 18-25).It also would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Graff in view of Luskin in view of CIBC and further in view of Lange to teach all the above. The

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motivation to combine is to teach a method for financial risk management utilizing the dynamism of the contingent claims marketplace as enunciated by Lange(col 5 line 62-col 6 line 59).

13. As per claim 17 Graff teaches the system of claim 16 wherein the database is an access database(col 11 lines 18-58)(Fig 2).

14.(AMENDED) As per claim 26 Graff fails to teach the method of claim 25 wherein some of the distribution to unit holders is made in shares of the security. Luskin teaches this (col 5 lines 1-15)(col 6 line 5-16)(col 8 lines 7-19)(col 9 line 37-col 12 line 10).It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Graff in view of Luskin to teach the above. The motivation to combine is to teach a method for one to make appropriate investments to select investments that reflect risk-return trade-offs and to revise these investments through time in response to changing market conditions as enunciated by Luskin(col 2 lines 18-25).CIBC teaches distributing funds to investors.(Page 1) on an equity-linked note.(CJN(page 1) and Satyajit(page 2) demonstrate that equity-linked notes are in the field of prior art.) Lange teaches that the composition of the trust changes with the distribution(Abstract)(Fig 4/265/267)(Fig 5/460)(col 7 lines 19-55)(col 8 line 49-col 11 line 16)(col 28 line 12-col 36 line 12)(col 63 line 60-col 68 line 6). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Graff in view of Luskin to teach the above. The motivation to combine is to teach a method for one to make appropriate investments to select investments that reflect risk-return trade-offs and to revise these investments through time in response to changing market conditions as enunciated by Luskin(col 2 lines 18-25).It also

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would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Graff in view of Luskin in view of CIBC and further in view of Lange to teach all the above. The motivation to combine is to teach a method for financial risk management utilizing the dynamism of the contingent claims marketplace as enuinciated by Lange(col 5 line 62-col 6 line 59).

15.(AMENDED) As per claim 29 Graff fails to teach specifically that the security selected is among the large cap stocks. Luskin teaches this(col 2 lines 32-34)(col 4 lines 43-49)(col 6 lines 13-18)(col 8 lines 8-61)(Table 1).It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Graff in view of Luskin to teach the above. The motivation to combine is to teach a method for one to make appropriate investments to select investments that reflect risk-return trade-offs and to revise these investments through time in response to changing market conditions as enunciated by Luskin(col 2 lines 18-25).CIBC teaches distributing funds to investors.(Page 1) on an equity-linked note.(CJN(page 1) and Satyajit(page 2) demonstrate that equity-linked notes are in the field of prior art.) Lange teaches that the composition of the trust changes with the distribution(Abstract)(Fig 4/265/267)(Fig 5/460)(col 7 lines 19-55)(col 8 line 49-col 11 line 16)(col 28 line 12-col 36 line 12)(col 63 line 60-col 68 line 6). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Graff in view of Luskin to teach the above. The motivation to combine is to teach a method for one to make appropriate investments to select investments that reflect risk-return trade-offs and to revise these investments through time in response to changing market conditions as enunciated by Luskin(col 2 lines 18-25).It also would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the

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invention to combine Graff in view of Luskin in view of CIBC and further in view of Lange to teach all the above. The motivation to combine is to teach a method for financial risk management utilizing the dynamism of the contingent claims marketplace as enunciated by Lange(col 5 line 62-col 6 line 59).

16. As per claim 30 Graff fails to teach the method of claim 28 wherein the long-term bond issue is a US Treasury strip. Luskin teaches this(col 2 lines 32-34)(col 2 lines 62-63)(col 4 lines 43-49)(col 6 lines 13-18)(col 8 lines 8-61)(Table 1)..It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Graff in view of Luskin to teach the above. The motivation to combine is to teach a method for one to make appropriate investments to select investments that reflect risk-return trade-offs and to revise these investments through time in response to changing market conditions as enunciated by Luskin(col 2 lines 18-25).CIBC teaches distributing funds to investors.(Page 1) on an equity-linked note.(CJN(page 1) and Satyajit(page 2) demonstrate that equity-linked notes are in the field of prior art.) Lange teaches that the composition of the trust changes with the distribution(Abstract)(Fig 4/265/267)(Fig 5/460)(col 7 lines 19-55)(col 8 line 49-col 11 line 16)(col 28 line 12-col 36 line 12)(col 63 line 60-col 68 line 6). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Graff in view of Luskin to teach the above. The motivation to combine is to teach a method for one to make appropriate investments to select investments that reflect risk-return trade-offs and to revise these investments through time in response to changing market conditions as enunciated by Luskin(col 2 lines 18-25).It also would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time

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of the invention to combine Graff in view of Luskin in view of CIBC and further in view of Lange to teach all the above. The motivation to combine is to teach a method for financial risk management utilizing the dynamism of the contingent claims marketplace as enunciated by Lange(col 5 line 62-col 6 line 59).

17. As per claim 31 Graff fails to teach the method of claim 30 wherein the term for the bond is between 20-30 years. Luskin teaches this(col 2 lines 32-34)(col 4 lines 43-49)(col 6 lines 13-18)(col 8 lines 8-61)(Table 1).It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Graff in view of Luskin to teach the above. The motivation to combine is to teach a method for one to make appropriate investments to select investments that reflect risk-return trade-offs and to revise these investments through time in response to changing market conditions as enunciated by Luskin(col 2 lines 18-25).CIBC teaches distributing funds to investors.(Page 1) on an equity-linked note.(CJN(page 1) and Satyajit(page 2) demonstrate that equity-linked notes are in the field of prior art.) Lange teaches that the composition of the trust changes with the distribution(Abstract)(Fig 4/265/267)(Fig 5/460)(col 7 lines 19-55)(col 8 line 49-col 11 line 16)(col 28 line 12-col 36 line 12)(col 63 line 60-col 68 line 6). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Graff in view of Luskin to teach the above. The motivation to combine is to teach a method for one to make appropriate investments to select investments that reflect risk-return trade-offs and to revise these investments through time in response to changing market conditions as enunciated by Luskin(col 2 lines 18-25).It also would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the

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invention to combine Graff in view of Luskin in view of CIBC and further in view of Lange to teach all the above. The motivation to combine is to teach a method for financial risk management utilizing the dynamism of the contingent claims marketplace as enunciated by Lange(col 5 line 62-col 6 line 59).

18. As per claim 32 Graff fails to teach the method of claim 28 wherein the period for determining the value of the trust units is quarterly. Luskin teaches this(Abstract)(Fig 6/808/712)(Fig 8/809/807/811/813)(col 2 line 29-63)(col 3 line 39-col 4 line 67).Furthermore Luskin teaches this method for a company 401K retirement which is reviewed quarterly(col 2 lines 50-53). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Graff in view of Luskin to teach the above. The motivation to combine is to teach a method for one to make appropriate investments to select investments that reflect risk-return trade-offs and to revise these investments through time in response to changing market conditions as enunciated by Luskin(col 2 lines 18-25).CIBC teaches distributing funds to investors.(Page 1) on an equity-linked note.(CJN(page 1) and Satyajit(page 2) demonstrate that equity-linked notes are in the field of prior art.) Lange teaches that the composition of the trust changes with the distribution(Abstract)(Fig 4/265/267)(Fig 5/460)(col 7 lines 19-55)(col 8 line 49-col 11 line 16)(col 28 line 12-col 36 line 12)(col 63 line 60-col 68 line 6). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Graff in view of Luskin to teach the above. The motivation to combine is to teach a method for one to make appropriate investments to select investments that reflect risk-return trade-offs and to revise these

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investments through time in response to changing market conditions as enunciated by Luskin(col 2 lines 18-25).It also would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Graff in view of Luskin in view of CIBC and further in view of Lange to teach all the above. The motivation to combine is to teach a method for financial risk management utilizing the dynamism of the contingent claims marketplace as enuinciated by Lange(col 5 line 62-col 6 line 59).

19.(AMENDED) As per claim 40 Graff teaches the system of claim 39 further comprising information about the trust units and customer accounts in a database accessible by the account administrator(Fig 3)(Fig 2/32)(col 16 lines 26-39).

***Response to Arguments***

20. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims listed above have been considered but are not persuasive. All art as cited herein is prior valid art and predates applicant's disclosure.The provisional application contains the elements of the successor, else the successor would have been a divisional application. Distributions as cited among different entities as defined in Luskin; such entities are arbitrary, and in a given instance may be individuals. It is the distribution method to arbitrary entities that is central.In any distribution, the reserves decrease, hence in a distribution from an entity, the resulting share ratio will be adjusted to reflect the new reserve level following the distribution. This feature is inherent.

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***Conclusion***

21. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

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22. Any questions concerning this communication should be addressed to the primary examiner of record, Dr. Geoffrey Akers, P.E., who can be reached between 6:30 AM and 5:00 PM Monday through Friday at 703-306-5844. If attempts to contact the primary examiner are unsuccessful, the primary examiner's superior, Mr. Vincent Millin, SPE, may be telephoned at (703)-308-1065.



GRA

May 21, 2003

DR. GEOFFREY R. AKERS, P.E.  
PRIMARY EXAMINER